

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Cancel claims 1-17

Claim 18 (new): A system for the measurement of water content in a mouth of a subject, said system comprising:

An electrostatic capacity sensor;

A probe upon which said sensor is disposed;

A processor coupled to said sensor whereby water concentration may be calculated from data collected from said sensor; and

A plastic film disposed about said sensor.

Claim 19 (new): The system according to claim 18, said electrostatic capacity sensor comprising a water content sensor having a sensitive side, and a glass plate disposed so as to protect said sensitive side.

Claim 20 (new): The system according to claim 18 further comprising a pressure correction circuit.

Claim 21 (new): The system according to claim 18 further comprising a compressible pressure pad.

Claim 22 (new): The system according to claim 18 wherein said plastic film is hydrophobic.

Claim 23 (new): The system according to claim 18 wherein said plastic film is selected from the group of plastics consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamide, nylon, polyvinyl chloride, and combinations thereof.

Claim 24 (new): The system according to claim 18 wherein said film has a thickness less than about approximately 20 μ m.

Claim 25 (new): The system according to claim 18 wherein said film has a thickness between greater than about approximately 2 μ m.

Claim 26 (new): The system according to claim 18 wherein said film has a thickness between 2 μ m and 15 μ m.

Claim 27 (new): The system according to claim 18 wherein said plastic film is configured as a removable sheath covering said sensor and at least a portion of said probe.

Claim 28 (new): The system according to claim 27 wherein said sheath comprises said plastic film configured as a bag and having at least one weld.

Claim 29 (new): The system according to claim 27 wherein said sheath further comprises a release paper bonded to a side of said sheath and configured to be removed prior to use.

Claim 30 (new): The system according to claim 18 further comprising a display.

Claim 31 (new): The system according to claim 18 wherein said probe has a doglegged shape.

Claim 32 (new): An oral moisture sensor protection barrier, said barrier comprising:
a bag comprising a plastic material;
a first edge of said bag being open for receiving an oral moisture sensor;
at least one other edge of said bag being welded to a release package; and
a catch piece disposed proximate to said open end.

Claim 33 (new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said catch piece comprises a strip upon which is disposed an adhesive coating.

Claim 34 (new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said plastic is a hydrophobic thermoplastic.

Claim 35 (new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said plastic is selected from the group of plastics consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamide, nylon, polyvinyl chloride, and combinations thereof.

Claim 36 (new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said plastic material has a thickness less than about approximately 20 μ m.

Claim 37 (new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said plastic material has a thickness between greater than about approximately 2 μ m.

Claim 38 (new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said plastic material has a thickness between 2 μ m and 15 μ m.

Claim 39 (new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said release package comprises paper.

Claim 40(new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said release package comprises a hermetically sealed enclosure of said bag.

Claim 41 (new): The barrier of claim 32 wherein said bag narrows progressively as it extends from said open end.